

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

	Word	Definition
	1. collide	a) learn a person's name or who a person is
	2. completely	b) damaged or broken
	3. destroyed	c) more than two; less than many
	4. victims	d) serious
	5. critical	e) short length of time; a few seconds
	6. condition	f) crash; when two things hit each other
	7. identify	g) people affected by an accident, crime or illness
	8. several	h) people who see a crime or accident happen
	9. witnesses	i) totally
	10. moments	j) a description of a person's health

### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**double decker bus** – a bus with two levels; people can sit upstairs or on the main level

**Via** – VIA Rail Canada is a passenger train company owned by the government

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Six people died _____ when a double decker bus collided with a VIA passenger train.	a) in Ottawa on Wednesday b) on Wednesday in Ontario
2. The front end of the bus was _____.	a) completely destroyed b) badly damaged
3. The driver and _____ were killed in this accident.	a) 6 people b) 5 passengers
4. _____ people were taken to hospital, 10 with serious injuries.	a) More than 13 b) More than 30
5. _____ on the train was seriously hurt.	a) No one b) Several people
6. _____ the bus did not stop at a rail crossing moments before the crash.	a) The victims said b) Witnesses said

### Discussion Questions

Have you traveled by train in Canada or in your own country? How are train travel and bus travel different?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

mass (a lot of something)	Navy yard (a government dock for building ships)	
capital (city that holds the government buildings)	locked down (closed and guarded)	
happened (occurred)	former (from an earlier time)	shootout (gun fight)
managed (to be able to do something)	secure (locked and protected)	

### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**Navy** – part of a country's military that fights at sea

**reservist** – a soldier on reserve; a person available to join the military if they are needed to fight

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ city of Canada is Ottawa.
2. When there was a fire in the building, they evacuated (made all of the people leave), put the fire out, and then \_\_\_\_\_ the building, so that no one could get inside.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ to finish my homework in three hours last weekend.
4. My \_\_\_\_\_ teacher never gave us any homework, but my current teacher gives us a lot.
5. When the police officer saw the accident, he asked witnesses what had \_\_\_\_\_.
6. If there is a \_\_\_\_\_, you should go to a \_\_\_\_\_ room and wait until it is safe to leave.
7. Average citizens cannot enter the \_\_\_\_\_, because it is only for military people.
8. A \_\_\_\_\_ of people gathered in the entrance to wait for the bus, because it was too cold to wait outside.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Eight people were killed and 13 people were injured in a mass shooting.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The mass shooting happened at a U.S. Navy yard in Washington, DC.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The gunman was a former Navy reservist from Washington.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The 34 year old gunman was killed during the shootout with police.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Investigators know how the gunman got into the secure building.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Parts of Washington, DC were locked down right after the shooting.

### Discussion Questions

When there is a mass shooting, people always talk about gun policies. Do you think there should be stricter laws about who can have a gun? Why?

### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) outbreak	a) affected by disease ill
	2) bacteria	b) uncooked unprocessed
	3) infected	c) sudden occurrence epidemic
	4) symptoms	d) banned criminal
	5) raw	e) events occurrences
	6) cases	f) germs that can cause sickness pathogens
	7) illegal	g) signs of illness proof you are sick

### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**E. coli** – bacteria found in animals that can cause food poisoning in humans if the food is not cooked or processed correctly.

**traced back** – to follow the evidence back to the start; to discover the beginning of something

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Where is there an E. coli outbreak?
2. How many people got sick or died?
3. Where did the bacteria come from?
4. When did people start getting sick?
5. When did most infected people start showing symptoms?
6. How was the Gouda cheese made?

### Discussion Questions

What do you do to make sure your family and you do not get food poisoning? What precautions (actions to protect yourself) do you take when shopping and cooking?

## Language Focus

### Prepositions

**Prepositions** – we use prepositions to show the relationship of an object to the rest of the sentence or to another object, place or person. Prepositions usually explain time, location, direction, source, or a logical relationship. Here are some common examples of prepositions and when to use them:

Prepositions of time		Prepositions of place	
on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Days of the week</li></ul>	on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(on) top of something</li><li>(on) public transportation</li></ul>
in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Months, years</li><li>A certain amount of time</li><li>(in) the morning/afternoon</li></ul>	in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(in) a large space (city, building, park, room)</li><li>(in) an event (participating)</li></ul>
at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A specific time</li><li>(at) night</li></ul>	at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Location where something happens</li><li>Events (watching)</li></ul>
after	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Later than an event/time</li></ul>	from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Movement away from a place</li><li>To show where something starts</li></ul>
for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Over a certain period of time</li></ul>	towards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Movement in the direction of something</li></ul>
since	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>From a past time until the present time (now)</li></ul>	to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Movement towards a location or person</li></ul>

### Prepositional Phrases

A prepositional phrase is a group of words that begin with a preposition and end with a noun, gerund (a verb ending in *-ing* that acts as a noun) or pronoun. The object of the prepositional phrase will usually have modifiers, which are also included in the prepositional phrase.

Formation of the prepositional phrase:

preposition + noun, pronoun, gerund, or clause

preposition + modifier(s) + noun, pronoun, gerund, or clause

Look at the following examples from the second news story. Notice that the prepositional phrases add extra information. They do not contain the subject of the sentence. The sentence will still make sense if prepositional phrases are removed.

13 people were killed and 8 people were hurt (in a mass shooting) (in Washington, DC) (on Monday).  
(preposition + adj + gerund) (preposition + noun) (preposition + noun)

Listen to the rest of the second story and try to hear the other prepositional phrases. Listen for the prepositions **at, from, during, with, after**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

## Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	SEPTEMBER 20 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon and you're listening to Learning English with CBC for September 20 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	Six people died in Ottawa on Wednesday when a double decker bus collided with a VIA passenger train. The front end of the bus was completely destroyed. The driver was killed along with 5 passengers on the bus. More than 30 people were also taken to hospital, including 10 in critical condition. No one on the train was seriously hurt. The victims have been identified as 5 men and one woman, all between the ages of 21 and 57. Several witnesses said the bus did not stop at a rail crossing moments before the crash.	0:10
Story 2	Thirteen people were killed and 8 people were hurt in a mass shooting in Washington, DC on Monday. It happened at a U.S. Navy yard. The gunman was 34 year old Aaron Alexis, a former full time Navy reservist from Texas. He was killed during a shootout with police. Investigators said they didn't know how the shooter managed to get inside the secure building. Parts of the United States' capital were locked down right after the shooting.	0:54
Story 3	An E. coli outbreak in Alberta and British Columbia has killed one person and made 10 other people sick. Several other possible cases are under investigation. The bacteria has been traced back to Gort's Gouda Cheese Farm in Salmon Arm, BC. People started getting sick in July, but most of the infected people started showing symptoms in late August and early September. The cheese was made with raw milk, which is not illegal, but many people think it is unsafe.	1:27

## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

	Word	Definition
f	1. collide	a) learn a person's name or who a person is
i	2. completely	b) damaged or broken
b	3. destroyed	c) more than two; less than many
g	4. victims	d) serious
d	5. critical	e) short length of time; a few seconds
j	6. condition	f) crash; when two things hit each other
a	7. identify	g) people affected by an accident, crime or illness
c	8. several	h) people who saw a crime or accident happen
h	9. witnesses	i) totally
e	10. moments	j) a description of a person's health

#### Listening

1. Six people died _____ when a double decker bus collided with a VIA passenger train.	a) in Ottawa on Wednesday b) on Wednesday in Ontario
2. The front end of the bus was _____.	a) completely destroyed b) badly damaged
3. The driver and _____ were killed in this accident.	a) 6 people b) 5 passengers
4. _____ people were taken to hospital, 10 with serious injuries.	a) More than 13 b) More than 30
5. _____ on the train was seriously hurt.	a) No one b) Several people
6. _____ the bus did not stop at a rail crossing moments before the crash.	a) The victims said b) Witnesses said

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

1. The capital city of Canada is Ottawa.
2. When there was a fire in the building, they evacuated (made the people leave), put the fire out, and then locked down the building, so that no one could get inside.
3. I managed to finish my homework in three hours last weekend.
4. My former teacher never gave us any homework, but my current teacher gives us a lot.
5. When the police officer saw the accident, he asked witnesses what had happened.
6. If there is a shootout, you should go to a secure area and wait until it is safe to leave.

7. Average citizens cannot enter the Navy yard, because it is only for military people.
8. A mass of people gathered in the entrance to wait for the bus, because it was too cold to wait outside.

### Listening

1. F Eight people were killed and 13 people were injured in a mass shooting.
2. T The mass shooting happened at a U.S. Navy yard in Washington, DC.
3. F The gunman was a former Navy reservist from Washington.
4. T The 34 year old gunman was killed during the shootout with police.
5. F Investigators know how the gunman got into the secure building.
6. T Parts of Washington, DC were locked down right after the shooting.

### News story 3

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
<b>c</b>	1) outbreak	a) affected by disease ill
<b>f</b>	2) bacteria	b) uncooked unprocessed
<b>a</b>	3) infected	c) sudden occurrence epidemic
<b>g</b>	4) symptoms	d) banned criminal
<b>b</b>	5) raw	e) events occurrences
<b>e</b>	6) cases	f) germs that can cause sickness pathogens
<b>d</b>	7) illegal	g) signs of illness proof you are sick

### Listening

1. Where is there an E. coli outbreak? *It is in Alberta and British Columbia.*
2. How many people got sick or died? *10 people got sick and 1 person died.*
3. Where did the bacteria come from? *The bacteria came from Gort's Gouda Cheese Farm in Salmon Arm, BC*
4. When did people start getting sick? *People started getting sick in July.*
5. When did most infected people start showing symptoms? *Most infected people started showing symptoms in late August and early September.*
6. How was the Gouda cheese made? *It was made with raw milk.*



## Language Focus

1. It happened (at a U.S. Navy yard).
2. The gunman was 34 year old Aaron Alexis, a former full time Navy reservist (from Texas).
3. He was killed (during a shootout) (with police).
4. Parts of the United States' capital were locked down right (after the shooting).